

Appl. No. 10/688,394

Docket No. 70288-020600

Amdt. dated April 6, 2006

Reply to Office Action of February 9, 2006

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S REJECTIONS/REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed February 9, 2006, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his guidance and patience. Further, Applicant thanks the Examiner for his comments in the interview of March 28, 2006. All of Examiner's comments and suggestions are very much appreciated. In the present response, the Applicant has amended Claims 1-7, 11, 14, 15, and 19. No new subject matter has been added to these claims.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected Claims 1 -3 because of informalities. Per the Examiner's request, Applicant has corrected the informalities. Accordingly, removal of the objections is courteously solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 11-14, and 16-19 as being anticipated by Piretti (U.S. Patent No. 3,856,147). However, Piretti does not anticipate these claims as Piretti does not disclose all the elements of these claims.

I. Piretti does not disclose all the elements of the independent claims**a. Piretti fails to disclose a configuration that snaps together**

In the present case, each of the independent Claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 discloses a latch and catch that are "substantially rigid and having adequate memory and elasticity to deform and snap back... wherein the catch is configured to snap into engagement with at least one latch." Moreover, Claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 are newly amended to emphasize that the latch and catch mate by snapping. For example, Claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 have been newly amended to include the phrase "...in an assembled state said catch snaps into engagement with a latch...in the transverse direction of the elongated deformable slot walls of said catch."

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However, Piretti does not disclose connections made by snapping. In fact, Piretti teaches that the connections can only be made via sliding. Specifically, Piretti at column 3, line 68-column 4, line 3 state (emphasis added):

"The panels 1 can only slide in the direction of the longitudinal edges of the interengaged panel, i.e., parallel to the coupling formations provided in the profiles 2 fixed thereto."

Further support that the Piretti reference is limited to sliding is found in Column 1, lines 33-37 and Column 3, lines 43-44, 49-51, and 57-60. In summary, the Piretti reference does not disclose connections wherein the latch and catch are configured to snap into each other.

Therefore, for the reasons discussed herein, since Piretti does not disclose all the elements of the independent claims and their corresponding dependent claims, Piretti cannot be considered to anticipate alone or in combination with another reference these claims.

b. Piretti fails to disclose an elongated member attached to the corner panel cover/structural element/ or a panel cover having a cavity for receiving an elongated member

Additionally, each of the independent Claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 discloses attached to the corner panel cover/structural element/ an elongated member or a panel cover having a cavity for receiving an elongated member. For exemplary purposes only, in one embodiment, an elongated member is depicted in Fig 16 A and 16B. For ease of reference, Fig 16 A and 16B have been included below. As can be seen, the elongated member 1210 is attached to the panel cover 845.

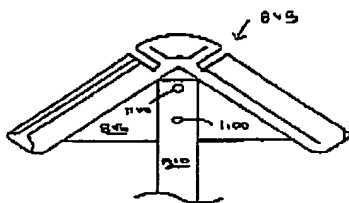


FIG. 16A

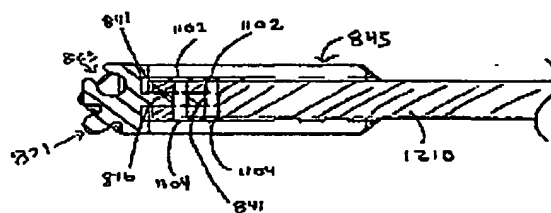
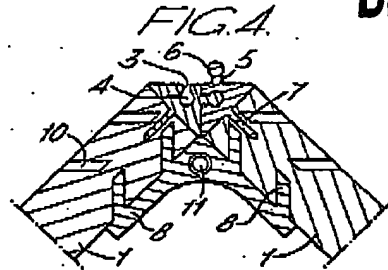


FIG. 16B

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However, Piretti does not disclose an elongated member attached to a panel cover as recited in the present application. Following the Examiner's assertions, Piretti's Fig 4. discloses two panels (1) having a latch (5) and catch (4) which are slidably connected to each other. For ease of reference Fig. 4 is included below. However, there is no elongated member disclosed anywhere in Piretti.



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Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 4, 7, and 15 as being obvious over Piretti (U.S. Patent No. 3,856,147) in view of Slocum et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,88,114). To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). See also, MPEP 2143.03. However, as discussed above, the Piretti reference does not teach all the elements of Claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 and their corresponding dependent claims 2, 7, and 15. Thus, the Piretti and Slocum references when combined do not teach all the elements of the newly amended independent Claims 1, 4, 11 and 19 from which dependent claims 2, 7, and 105 depend from. Therefore, the Piretti and Slocum references when combined do not render Claims 2, 4, 7, and 15 obvious.

Remarks

Applicant has complied with all requirements made in the above-referenced communication. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending Claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the pending claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

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If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representatives, attention Eglia Nair Flores at (310) 586-6511 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

This response is being timely filed and no fee is believed due. However, if Applicant is mistaken, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fee in connection with the submission of this paper, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2638. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number 70288-020600 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

Date: April 6, 2006

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